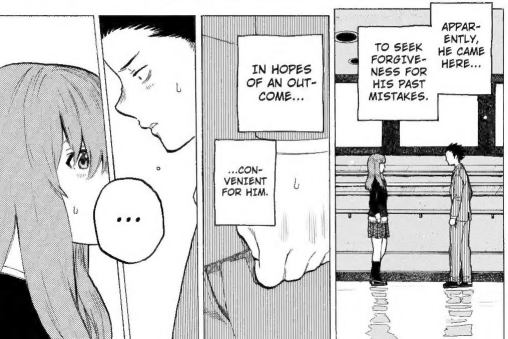
A SILENT VOICE 2

YOSHITOKI OIMA

CHAPTER 6: WHY?



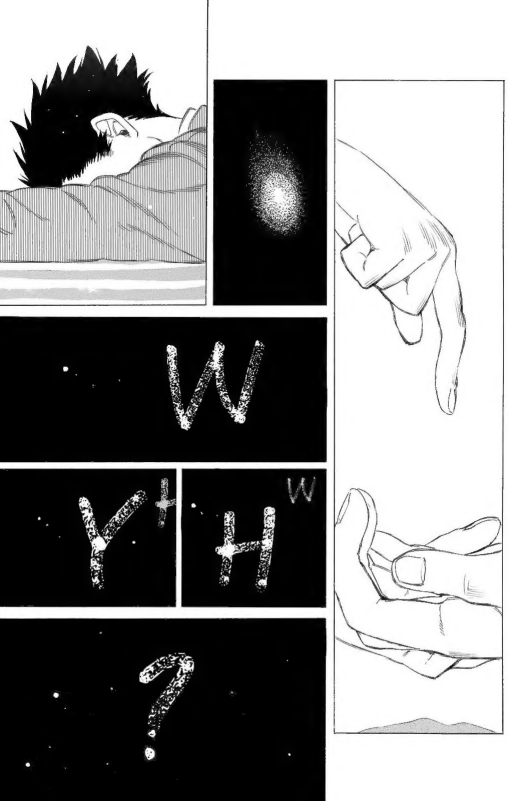
W-
TAP
TAP
TAP
WAIT A SEC-OND!
ZOOM
WE WERE IN 6TH GRADE TO-GETHER!
IT'S ME, ISHIDA!
ANY-THING LIKE THIS?!
I CAN'T TELL HER...
HUH?! DON'T YOU RE-MEMBER ME?!
NISHI-MIYA!!
IT'S ME, SHOYA ISHIDA!!
I SAID...

STAGGER
!!
SLIP
BMPH
!!!!
YEAH...
I GUESS SHE WOULD RUN...

THAT JUST PROVES HOW BAD I TREAT-ED HER...

BE IT HER RUNNING AWAY FROM ME OR BE IT HER PULLING A KNIFE ON ME.
I CAME HERE PREPARED FOR WHATEVER HAPPENED...

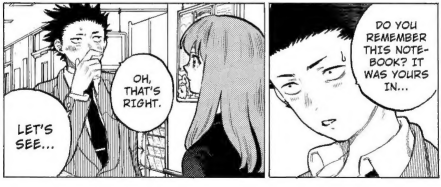
THE TRUTH IS, I HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES TO TALK TO HER...
SIGH
...AND I REJECT-ED EVERY SINGLE ONE.
TWICE...
ONCE...
OKAY, I GOT MY ANSWER. I DON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE.


W
Y
H
W
?

OH...

GRAB
YANK
WHAP
TH...
THANK... YOU...
...
WHY?
"WHY?" DOES SHE MEAN...
WHY AM I HERE?
...

*"6-2 SHOKO NISHIMIYA"



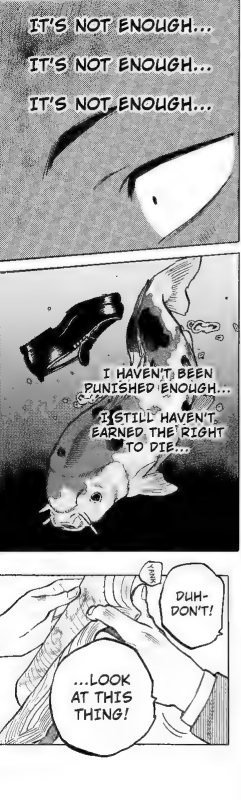
"YOU FORGOT THIS."
...!!
...!!
WH-WHAT?

WHY DO YOU KNOW...
SIGN LANGUAGE?
B-
BECAUSE I LEARNED IT!
OH...

SO I COULD GIVE YOU A PIECE OF MY MIND!
FWAP
I WENT THROUGH HELL BE-CAUSE I COULDN'T HEAR YOUR VOICE.
FLAP
FLAP
...
FLAP

"DUDE, THAT IS NASTY!"
"SHE'S CREEPIN' ME OUT."
"YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THIS, RIGHT? GO AHEAD! SAY SOME-THING!"

I would like to get to know everyone through this notebook.


IT'S NOT ENOUGH...
IT'S NOT ENOUGH...
IT'S NOT ENOUGH...
I HAVEN'T BEEN PUNISHED ENOUGH...
I STILL HAVEN'T EARNED THE RIGHT TO DIE...
...AHHH...IT'S NO USE...
...IT'S STILL...NOT ENOUGH...
SHIT
DUH- DON'T!
...LOOK AT THIS THING!

I CAME HERE...
FOR MY-SELF...
THE TRUTH IS...
...IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. ACTUALLY... THIS WAS MOSTLY JUST AN EXCUSE TO SEE YOU...

HOW MUCH BETTER WOULD THINGS HAVE BEEN...
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN ON MY MIND ALL THESE YEARS...

...IF, BACK IN SIXTH GRADE, YOU AND ME...
COULD HAVE HEARD EACH OTHER'S VOICES?

IN THE 17 YEARS I'VE BEEN ON THIS EARTH, I'VE NEVER ONCE BEEN WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A NICE GUY...
AND I'VE ONLY LASTED THIS LONG BY LOOKING DOWN ON MY CLASS-MATES.
I'M SELF-ISH...I HAVE NO EMPATHY...
I HATE MYSELF.

...

BACK THEN, WE COULD ONLY COMMUNICATE BY HURTING EACH OTHER.
LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW, THAT'S REALLY FRUSTRATING!!
AND THE THING THAT PISSES ME OFF THE MOST IS THAT I HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT SINCE THEN!
BUT...
BUT NOW...
I WANT TO TRY AND...
UNDERSTAND IT...
UNDERSTAND YOUR VOICE...

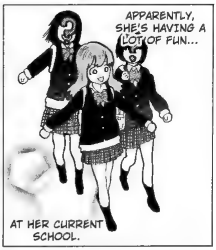
NISHI-
MIYA.
CAN
ME...
AND
YOU...

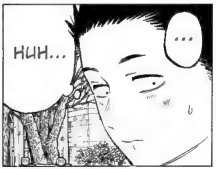
...BE FRIENDS?

OH CRAP!! I SAID TOO MUCH!!
I WAS PLANNING TO APOLOGIZE AND DISAPPEAR! WHY'D I GO AND BRING "FRIENDS" INTO THIS?!
I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE SAYING BACK THEN, RIGHT?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID SOMETHING SO EMBARRASSING WITH A STRAIGHT FACE!!

!!
EEK! LOOK AT THAT!
NOW THAT'S WHAT BEING YOUNG IS ALL ABOUT!
OH LORD!
HOW SWEET!

SHOKO
NISHIMIYA
AGE: 17
SHE LIVES WITH HER MOTHER, HER GRAND-MOTHER, AND HER YOUNGER SISTER.
CHAPTER 7: I GAVE UP ONCE BEFORE


APPARENTLY, SHE'S HAVING A LOT OF FUN...
AT HER CURRENT SCHOOL.


...
HUH...

NOW THAT'S WHAT BEING YOUNG IS ALL ABOUT!
EEK! LOOK AT THAT!
ほほほ。。。イーワネー
HOHOHO...HOW SWEET!
SHWIP
SAY, DON'T YOU HAVE BREAD DUTY TODAY?
"BREAD DUTY"?
!
WHAP
...
I'M NOT TOO SURE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
HUH?
SO AFTER HER SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS ENDS, SHOKO HAS BREAD DUTY.
OUR USUAL BREADMAN DOESN'T COME ON TUESDAYS...
THU
FRI
SAT
SUN
MON
TUE
HMM? HOW ABOUT IT, SONNY? YOU WANNA HELP?
HUH? WHAT IS "BREAD DUTY"?

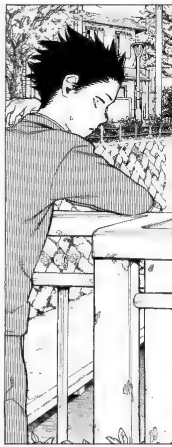
BREAD!
SPLISH SPLISH
APPARENTLY, SHE'S IN CHARGE OF FEEDING BREAD TO THE CARP.
WHY DO YOU FEED THE FISH EVERY WEEK?
OH... BECAUSE YOU WANT TO?
WHY...
BONG
TOSS

TAP TAP
YOU GOT SOME WEIRD IDEAS, YOU KNOW THAT?
SHE LIKES BEING COUNTED ON?
SMILE
...
TOSS
...
SHRUG

RIGHT NOW, I'M HAVING A NORMAL CONVERSATION WITH SHOKO NISHIMIYA...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
THE GIRL I USED TO HATE SO BAD...
...
WITH THIS VULGAR FACE OF MINE...
I WAS PLANNING TO JUMP OFF A TALL BRIDGE TODAY AND DIE...
THIS IS THE MOST EMBARRASSING DAREDEVIL STUNT OF MY LIFE...
BUT NOW HERE I AM FEEDING FISH...
AND MY EYES ALL BLOODSHOT...
AND ZITS POPPING UP EVERYWHERE...

LET'S GO, SHO-CHAN.

YANK
MOVE.



...
GO WAIT IN THE CAR.
COME ON, WE'RE LEAVING.
?
WHAT?
WE'RE LEAVING. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?
—UH! —OT DUN.
YANK
—! —!
THE CAR!
WE'RE GOING HOME!

UM...
SHE SAID SHE DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE YET BECAUSE SHE STILL HAS BREAD LEFT.
FWIP
IS THIS...
YOUR OLD NOTEBOOK?
!
COME ON, LET'S GO.

FLAP
WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS?
GET RID OF IT THIS INSTANT!!
!!

SHO-CHAN ?!!!
FW IP

SPLOOSH
NISHI-
MIYA!!
OH
CRAP!!
!
SPLASH

GASP
!
AHH!
SPLASH
HUFF
GLUB
BRAM
N... NISHI-MIYA!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
!!

GASP
HUFF
HUFF
SPLOOSH!
I-IS THAT NOTEBOOK REALLY WORTH SEARCHING FOR SO DESPERATELY?
IT'S FULL OF INSULTS...
GLUP
!

NISHI-
MIYA.
BOW
!
NOD
IS THAT NOTE-BOOK...
REALLY THAT IM-PORTANT?

SHO-CHAN!
WE'RE LEAV-ING.
YOU MAY HAVE RUINED... YOUR HEAR-ING AID.
NOW, HURRY TO THE CAR.
STEP STEP
STEP STEP
STEP STEP

U-UM!

STEP
STEP
I REALLY...

I'M SORRY ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO!

STEP
STEP

STEP
STEP
STEP

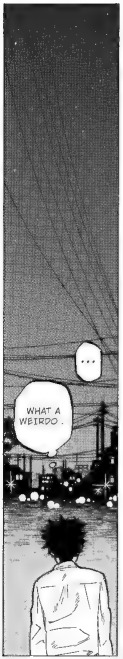
REGRET WHAT I DID BACK THEN!!
...
STEP

WHACK

OOF
?!!!

...
NISHI-MIYA...
SQUIRTLE
"SEE YOU LATER!"
I DON'T THINK SHE'D LIKE THAT...
OH, WILL I SEE HER IF I GO TO THAT BRIDGE ON TUES-DAYS?
"LATER"? WHEN IS "LATER"?

BUT....
I'M GLAD I WENT...
AREN'T I? ...AM I REALLY?
AM I GLAD I WENT?
HMM...
...
"I..."
"GAVE UP ONCE BEFORE, BUT..."
REALLY THAT IMPOR-TANT?
IS THAT NOTE-BOOK...
"SINCE YOU BROUGHT IT BACK TO ME..."


...
WHAT A WEIRDO.

COME ON, DIG IN!
THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING ABOUT?
SMILE SMILE
AND IT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY THAT YOU WANTED TO DO THIS FOR ME!
YOU MUST'VE WORKED YOUR BUTT OFF FOR THIS!
...IF I HAD DIED...
...I NEVER WOULD HAVE SEEN MOM SMILE LIKE THIS...

"I GAVE UP ONCE BEFORE, BUT..."
4
日 月 火 水 木 金 土
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30

SEE YOU LATER.

I GUESS I SHOULD...

GO SEE NISHI-MIYA AGAIN... HUH?

OH, MORNING, SHO-CHAN.

WANT SOME TOAST?

YEAH...

OH YEAH.

CAN I BORROW YOUR BIKE?

HUH?

CHAPTER 8: "FRIENDS"?

I GOTTA BUY A NEW BIKE...
I MEAN, I SOLD EVERYTHING...
NO, I GUESS I NEED A BED FIRST.
AHHH, I'M MISSING SO MUCH STUFF...
I SOLD MY TEXT-BOOKS TOO!
AND CLOTHES
AND MY COMPUT-ER...AND PHONE...
キーンコーカーンコーン
DING-DONG-DANG-DONG
I'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER JOB...
OKAY, TIME FOR LUNCH!
WANNA BAT TOGETHER, MIKO?

FWIP
OH, I FORGOT TO BUY TEA...
WANT SOME OF MINE?
HON HON HON
EW, DON'T BE GROSS, IDIOT!
...

THAT GUY'S...
HON HON HON
ALONE TOO, HUH?

I'D BETTER GET OUTTA HERE!
FWIP
...
HON HON HON
OH, I REMEMBER HIM...HE'S THE GUY WHO SITS BEHIND ME...
NAGA-TSUKA... WAS IT?

I'M NOT LIKE HIM.
BEFORE SOMEONE THINKS WE'RE FRIENDS...

..."FRIENDS"...

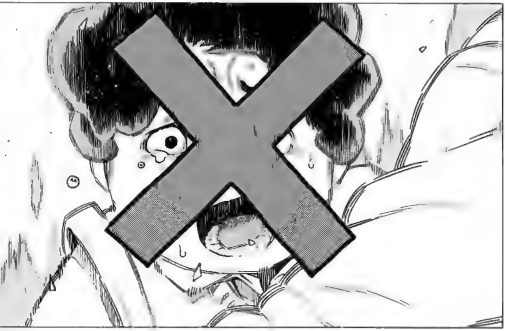
REALLY FRIENDS NOW?
ARE NISHI-MIYA AND I...

AND EVEN IF I DO GO...
WHAT WILL I DO THERE?
MAYBE SHE WAS JUST BEING POLITE WHEN SHE SAID THAT...
HER SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS IS ON TUESDAYS... CAN I GO SEE HER THERE?
"SEE YOU LATER."

NO... THAT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.
GOOD DAY
LEARN SIGN LAN-GUAGE?
NO... IF I TRY THAT, I'LL PROBABLY GET THIS AGAIN...
FANCY MEETIN' YOU HERE. WANNA GRAB A COFFEE?
BUMP INTO HER OH-SO CASUALLY?
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'LL WORK!
BY WAY OF APOL-OGY.
I NEED A PURE, LEGITIMATE REASON TO GO...
UM ?!!!
I KNOW I'M NO GOOD, BUT LET'S BE FRIENDS.
PLUS... DO I EVEN DESERVE TO SEE HER AGAIN?
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT I CAN USE!
ICE-BREAK-ER
EXCUSE
IT'S NO USE!!
I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT!!

HEY, CAN I BORROW YOUR BIKE FOR A SEC?
THUMP
—AND NOW IT'S FRIGGIN' TUESDAY!!
HUH...
I WANNA GO BUY LUNCH.
HUH?
WHY SHOULD I LET YOU BORROW MY BICYCLE?
HUH?! GET YOUR HANDS OFF MY BIKE, MAN!!
FWIP
I'LL HAVE IT BACK TO YOU BEFORE LUNCH'S OVER! 'KAY?
THUNK
OH...
DON'T HAVE ONE. THAT'S WHY I NEED YOURS.
THEN, WHY DON'T YOU USE YOUR OWN BICYCLE?

SOME-
BODY
HELP
ME!!
RATTLE RATTLE
WHY DOESN'T HE JUST SEND HIM THE BOMB?
?
HELP
ME!!
RATTLE RATTLE



OUR
EYES
MET.
CRAP!

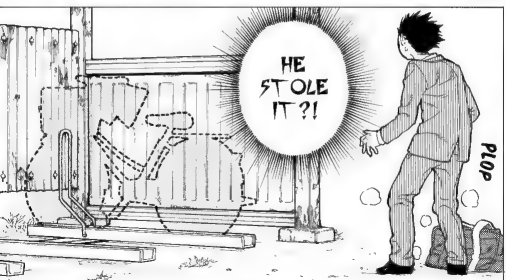
DON'T I
NEED TO
CHANGE
SOME-
THING?
ATTLE RATTLE RATTL
RAT
...
AH
!!
AHHH
!!

FOR REAL?
YOU ARE A GOD.
20000000000000000H
UM...
YOU CAN BORROW MINE.

?!
-SIGH- THIS IS YOUR PROBLEM NOW.

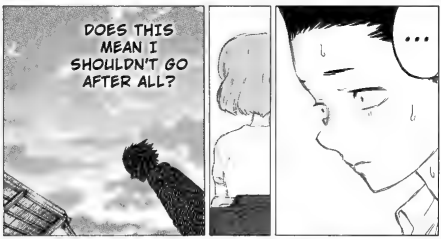
DID ALL THAT FAT WARP HIS BRAIN?!
THIS IS HOW HE ACTS AFTER I HELP HIM OUT? WHAT A JERK!!

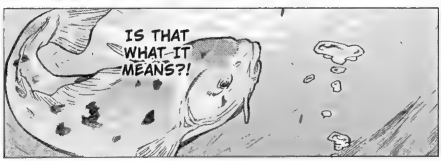
キーンコーンカーン
DING-DONG
DANG-DONG
—AFTER SCHOOL


HE STOLE IT?!
PLOP

I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD WHEN HE DIDN'T COME BACK! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
PLUS, THAT WAS MOM'S BIKE!!
DAMN IT! I SHOULD'VE TAKEN A GOOD LOOK AT HIS FACE!!

AND WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TODAY?


DOES THIS MEAN I SHOULDN'T GO AFTER ALL?
...


IS THAT WHAT IT MEANS?!

HERE, HAVE A COU-PON!
WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU STOP BY!
...
O-OH, I GET IT!
!NEW BREAD ON SALE
Baked nice and fluffy using techni
learned right in France. Please t
this opportunity to try it ou
Access
BAKERY YANAGA
00-00-0000
SO I LOST MY BICYCLE TODAY IN ORDER TO FIND THIS COUPON?!

SPONSORED BY THE S.L.I.G.
SUIMON SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB
THIS WAY
KREEK
YES?
NOK NOK
UM...
IS NISHI-MIYA-SAN HERE?

I, UH... I'M A FRIEND OF NISHIMIYA-SAN'S...
MY NAME IS ISHIDA...
...
IN FACT, HER MOTHER ISN'T HERE NOW, IS SHE?
OH, BUT BY "NISHIMIYA-SAN," I DON'T MEAN THE MOTHER.
PANT
OH, THIS BREAD... THIS BAGUETTE...I WAS THINKING OF GIVING IT TO NISHIMIYA-SAN...I JUST SO HAPPENED TO GET MY HANDS ON A REALLY NICE LOAF, SO I FIGURED SHE COULD FEED IT TO THE FISH... YOU KNOW, SINCE SHE HAS BREAD DUTY...

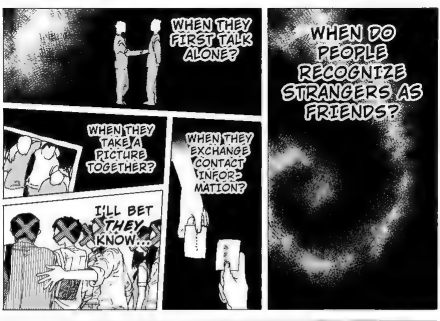
SHE'S NOT HERE.

HUH?
SHE'S NOT HERE.
UM, ARE YOU SURE?
HUH?

EXCUSE ME, BUT...

SHE'S NOT HERE.
WHAP
SHE'S NOT--

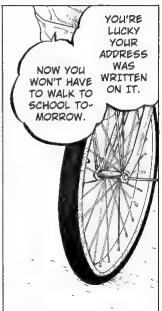
FWOOSH
"ARE YOU REALLY HER FRIEND?"


WHEN THEY FIRST TALK ALONE?
WHEN THEY TAKE A PICTURE TOGETHER?
WHEN THEY EXCHANGE CONTACT INFORMATION?
I'LL BET THEY KNOW...
WHEN DO PEOPLE RECOGNIZE STRANGERS AS FRIENDS?

WHAT ARE "FRIENDS"?

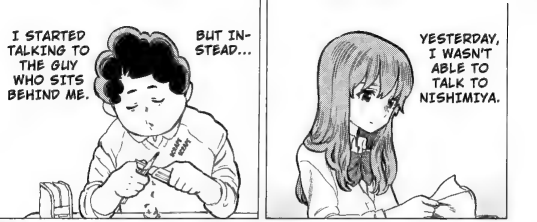
OH, ISHIDA-KUN!
YOU'RE FINALLY HOME!

FLUTTER
OH, I FOUND IT ABANDONED IN A RICE PADDY!
I LOOKED ALL OVER THE PLACE FOR IT!!
WH-WHERE DID YOU FIND MY BIKE...?

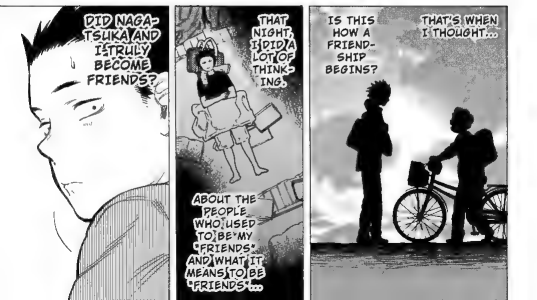

YOU'RE LUCKY YOUR ADDRESS WAS WRITTEN ON IT.
NOW YOU WON'T HAVE TO WALK TO SCHOOL TOMORROW.

I'M GLAD I GOT IT BACK TO YOU!

IT'S GOOD BREAD. WANT SOME?
...I BOUGHT IT.
WHAT'S WITH THE BREAD, BY THE WAY?
BECAUSE YOU STUCK UP FOR ME TODAY!
WHY DID YOU GO SO FAR FOR MY SAKE?


I STARTED TALKING TO THE GUY WHO SITS BEHIND ME.
BUT INSTEAD...
YESTERDAY, I WASN'T ABLE TO TALK TO NISHIMIYA.

HE BROUGHT BACK MY STOLEN BIKE.
HIS NAME IS TOMOHIRO NAGATSUKA.
CHAPTER 9: THE RIGHT TO BE HERE

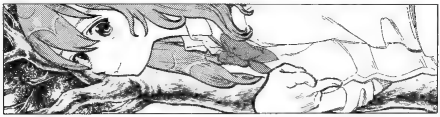

DID NAGATSUKA AND I TRULY BECOME FRIENDS?
THAT NIGHT, I DID A LOT OF THINKING.
ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO USED TO BE MY "FRIENDS," AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "FRIENDS"...
IS THIS HOW A FRIENDSHIP BEGINS?
THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT...

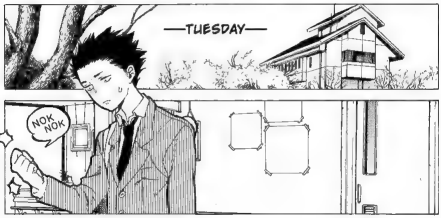
SINCE WE'RE FRIENDS NOW, WHY DON'T WE HANG OUT AFTER SCHOOL?
OH, I KNOW!
THE MOVIE'S GONNA START!
HURRY, ISHIDA-KUN!
SO IN HIS MIND, WE'RE ALREADY FRIENDS?!
YEAH.
BOY, WASN'T THAT A GOOD MOVIE, ISHIDA-KUN?
I KINDA WANT TO MAKE A MOVIE OF MY OWN NOW!
BUT... THAT'S FINE, I GUESS...
HUH? YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT OR I'LL REALLY DO IT!
PLUS, IT IS A LITTLE FUN..
...WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A SHOT?
O-OH YEAH?

SINCE I'VE FELT LIKE THIS...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
WHAT'S WRONG, ISHIDA-KUN?
HEY, UH...
NAGA-TSUKA-KUN...
DO YOU KNOW, LIKE, WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "FRIENDS"?
...
OH... IT'S NO-THING...
...

IS THAT REALLY SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE DEFINED?
OH, I SEE!
O-OH, BUT...
I THINK THERE ARE CASES WHERE YOU HAVE TO EARN THE RIGHT TO BE FRIENDS.
WHY DOESN'T HE JUST TELL THE GIRL HOW HE FEELS?
THEN, HE'LL GET AN ANSWER.
LIKE, FOR INSTANCE, IF THERE WAS A BRAT WHO PLAYED PRANKS... AND DID ALL SORTS OF AWFUL STUFF TO A GIRL...
THEN, LATER ON, THE GIRL FORGAVE THE LITTLE BRAT...
BUT THE GIRL'S MOTHER DIDN'T.
AND THE BRAT DOESN'T KNOW IF HE HAS THE RIGHT TO BE FRIENDS WITH THE GIRL EITHER...

BUT, ISHIDA-KUN...I THINK FRIEND-SHIP...
...LIES SOMEWHERE BEYOND THINGS LIKE WORDS AND LOGIC...




—TUESDAY—
NOK NOK

ガラ
THUNK

SHE'S NOT HERE.

チラ
GLANCE
OH...

SHE'S NOT HERE.
BUT SHE IS, ISN'T SHE?

UM... ABOUT WHETHER NISHI-MIYA-SAN AND I ARE FRIENDS...
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T KNOW...
BUT I WANT TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL, INCLUDING THAT...
IF YOU'RE ONLY HERE TO SATISFY YOURSELF, THEN PLEASE LEAVE.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

BOY!
MY FRIEND HERE SAID HE WANTS TO SEE NISHIMIYA-SAN!!
S-SO STOP YOUR COMPLAINING AND BRING HER HERE! YOU GOT THAT?!!
OH?

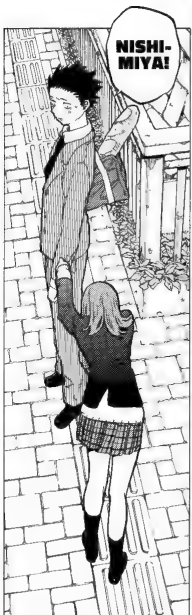
SHAKE SHAKE
NUH-NAGA-TSUKA-KUN?!!
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME?! ARE YOU?!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
I FOL-LOWED YOU.
ISN'T THAT WHAT BEST FRIENDS ARE FOR?
WHAP
YARGH !!!!
THUD
-:GASP:-
SO THE TURD'S FRIEND HAS A TURD FOR A HEAD, EH? YOU PIECE OF CRAP.
CHATTER...
SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME, BOY!!
YOU WANT SOME OF THIS, TURD-HEAD?!
OH DEAR, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YANK
THAT'S ENOUGH, NAGATSUKA-KUN...LET'S JUST GO...
YOU'RE BEING REALLY LOUD...
NAGA-TSUKA, YOU IDIOT!!

OH MY, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
NISHI-MIYA-CHAN'S BOY-FRIEND?!
OH? AREN'T YOU THE BOY FROM THE OTHER DAY?
!!
CHATTER CHATTER

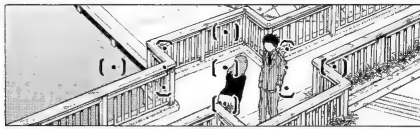
I-I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!
HOW EM-BARRAS-SING!!
ISHIDA-KUN?!

HEH!
AFTER WE CAME ALL THIS WAY...

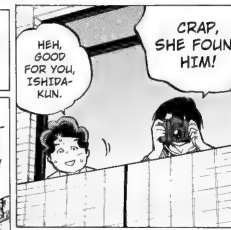
I DIDN'T GET TO SEE HER AGAIN...
YEESH... WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?
NO...WHAT WAS THE DEAL WITH NAGATSUKA-KUN?
DID HE THINK HE WAS HELPING?
SIGH...


NISHI-
MIYA!

HUFF
HUFF
LONG TIME NO SEE...
OH...



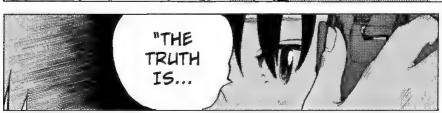
HUH ?!!!


CRAP, SHE FOUND HIM!
HEH, GOOD FOR YOU, ISHIDA-KUN.

HE'S WAVING HIS HANDS AROUND!!
WHAT'S HE DOING?!!
THAT'S SIGN LANGUAGE, IDIOT.

...SO SHE'S THE GIRL HE WAS TALKING ABOUT?
SHE'S DEAF.
HMM? WHICH MEANS...
THE GIRL HE'S TALKING TO...
WOW! I DIDN'T KNOW HE COULD DO THAT!!
...
JEEZ! WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?!
AHHH! JUST A MINUTE, YOU!!
WHAT A JERK!! TELL ME WHAT THEY'RE SAYING TOO!!
YOU'RE EAVESDROPPING ON THEIR CONVERSATION, AREN'T YOU?!
HUH?!

"WHO WAS THAT TURD-HEAD JUST NOW?"
"HE'S NOT YOUR FRIEND, IS HE? EW, NO WAY!"
"NO WAY! I DON'T KNOW THAT GUY!"
"I'VE NEVER SEEN A TURD THAT BIG IN MY LIFE!"
-HURK-
STOP SCREW-ING AROUND, BOY!!
-TSK-


"THE TRUTH IS...

"I KEEP REMEMBERING WHAT I DID TO YOU WHEN WE WERE KIDS...
"AND IT MAKES ME THINK I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HERE."

"THE TRUTH IS, I WANTED TO COME SEE YOU A LOT MORE OPENLY...
"I ACTUALLY WASN'T EVEN SURE IF IT WAS OKAY FOR ME TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

...
"THEN I COULDN'T EVEN FIGURE OUT WHETHER WE WERE REALLY FRIENDS...
"SO I'VE KIND OF JUST BEEN DEPRESSED FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS."
THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN ON ISHIDA-KUN'S MIND?
"I'M SO GLAD."
HUH?
"GLAD"?
"A...
"ACTUALLY, ME TOO."

"WE WERE BOTH THINKING THE SAME THING."
"THAT'S SO STRANGE..."
FISH FOOD
!

...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO YOUR-SELF?
YOU COULD BE PLENTY HAPPY WITH-OUT BRING-ING *HIM* INTO YOUR LIFE

YOU'RE SUCH A MORON...
MUTTER
SIS...

CHAPTER 10: THAT'S JUST GREAT

WHY DID YOU TRY TO KILL YOURSELF?
I'VE JUST BEEN THROUGH A LOT OF STUFF, YOU KNOW...
I'M SORRY...
BUT...
YES?
OH...
UM...
SHE KNEW...
TWINK

OH CRAP!!
YOU TRICKED ME ?!!!
I KNEW IT!!
I KNEW YOU WERE THINKING OF KILLING YOURSELF!!
THUNK
?!
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP!
YOUR ROOM WAS CLEAN, AND YOUR PHONE WAS OFF, NOT TO MENTION THIS OMINOUS CALENDAR!!
I owe you.
KLICK

I'LL BURN THE ¥1,700,000 YOU EARNED WITH YOUR BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS!!
UNLESS YOU PROMISE ME YOU'RE NOT GONNA KILL YOURSELF, I'M GONNA BURN THIS!!

ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL YOUR POOR MOTHER?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S STUPID!!
MOM, DON'T BE STUPID...
...HUH?

SHUT UP!!
I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU DIE UNTIL YOU SAVE UP 1,700,000 MORE YEN!!
YEAH, I'M SORRY. I'M TOTALLY SORRY.
AND I'VE, YOU KNOW, ALREADY THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I'VE DONE, SO...
I'LL BURN ALL YOUR MONEY UNTIL YOU PROMISE NOT TO KILL YOURSELF!!
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?! THAT'S ONE HARD LIFE RIGHT THERE, I TELL YOU WHAT!!
I'LL KEEP BURNING YOUR MONEY FOREVER!
AND WHEN YOU SAVE THAT UP, I'LL BURN IT AGAIN!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA STOP?! TELL ME!!
I'M SORRY! ...I'LL STOP!
I'LL STOP!

I'LL STOP TRYING TO KILL MYSELF!!
I'LL STOP TRYING TO KILL MYSELF!!
KONK
YOU'D BETTER MEAN THAT!
THAT'S A PRO-MISE, OKAY?!
FWOOM

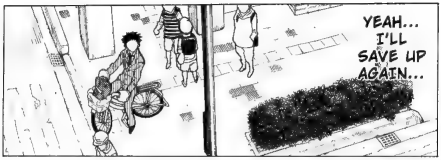
EEK!
OUCH!
MOM!! ARE YOU OKAY?!
AH!
AHH?!
AHH-HH?!
HAIRMAKE ISHIDA
ANY SURVI-VORS?
NOPE.
YIKES...
I'M REALLY SORRY...
BUT DON'T GET TOO DEPRESSED, OKAY?

WHO WANTS TO USE MONEY YOU SAVED IN ORDER TO DIE ANY-WAY?

...I'LL SAVE UP AGAIN...
...AND PAY YOU BACK FOR REAL THIS TIME...

NOW, GET YOUR BUTT TO SCHOOL!
BUT YOU CAN TAKE YOUR TIME WITH IT, OKAY?
THANKS. ♡

FADE IN


YEAH... I'LL SAVE UP AGAIN...

THIS TIME, IN ORDER TO LIVE...

...!

HE'S...
SHE'S NOT HERE.
WHAT'S HE DOING?
HERE!

HE LOOKS ABOUT ELEMENTARY...? MAYBE MIDDLE SCHOOL-AGE...
WHY ISN'T HE IN SCHOOL?
A...DEAD FISH?
UGH, GROSS!
OH, HE TOOK A PICTURE OF SOMETHING?
SNAP
AND A BUCKET?
A NET?

BMPH !!!!
KRASH

WHADDA YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
YOU DIDN'T HEAR?
THE RULE IS I KICK YOU IF YOU TALK TO SHOKO.
HUH ?!!!
ONE KICK FOR EVERY SECOND!! SO...I GUESS A MILLION SHOULD COVER IT!
OW! OW!! OW?!
4
3
2
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU, MAN?!
5
6
7

SNIFF IT!
SMELL MY HAIR!

HUH?
~SNIFF~
HUH?

HOW'S THAT? SMELLS GOOD, DON'T IT?
SHOKO USES THE SAME SHAMPOO!
FOR REAL?
SO? WHAT ABOUT IT?
MAN, YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
YESTERDAY, WE TOOK A BATH TOGETHER!
ME AND SHOKO ARE GOIN' OUT, SO DON'T GO TALKIN' TO MY GIRL!!
YOU GOT THAT ?!!

...OH! CRAP.
KRASH
HUH... SO YOU TWO ARE GOING OUT?
SO SHE LIKES... YOUNGER GUYS?
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT...
OH CRAP, THAT'S KIND OF A BUMMER.
I MEAN, MY BIKE. IT'S DENTED... WHAT A BUMMER.
BY THE WAY, ARE YOU GONNA MAKE IT TO SCHOOL IN TIME?
OH, CRAP!
I GOTTA GO!
SEE YA.

HEY, I'M SORRY TOO. AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, WE'RE COOL.
HEY, SORRY ABOUT ALL THAT TALKING TO YOUR GIRLFRIEND, PAL.
YEAH!
SEE YA!
YOU MORON.
MUTTER

HUH...

SHE'S DOIN' PRETTY WELL FOR HER-SELF.

YEAH...
GOOD FOR HER.

I NEVER IMAGINED IT, BUT...
WELL, IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL...

THAT'S JUST GREAT.

AND KNOW-ING THAT MAKES ME HAPPY TOO.
THAT'S... GREAT.

YEAH, THAT'S JUST GREAT.
SHAMPOO

WHOA!! WHY AM I IMAGINING THIS?!!!
!!

KRASH

DING
DONG
DANG

ZZZ.
ZZZ.
MUSC-PER
MUSC-PER
MAN, EVERY-ONE'S STARING AT ME.
IS IT BECAUSE I'M ALL MESSED UP FROM THE CRASH?
YO, NAGA-TSUKA-KUN.

SAY... ISHIDA-KUN.
THUMP

THIS ARTICLE IS TOTALLY HILARIOUS, BUT...
WHAT HAPPEN-ED?

Suimon Area Navigator
Breaking News/Residents/Current Ranking #8

"Any of You Got More Guts Than Me?"

-Bragging About His Acts of Public Nuisance-

According to the school this male student attends, the incident is still under investigation.

Interested in a portable hair loss remedy? [PR]
Blog it Tweet! 2 Share 9 Print this Page

■Now, when community sites are all the rage, they are used in many ways...

Criticism floods his blog. A boy jumping into a river. At a glance, it might seem like a common occurance. But shouldn't responsible adults viewing such tomfoolery knit their brows?

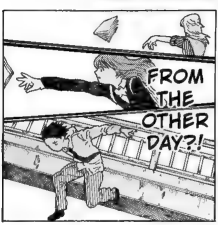
"Any of You Got More Guts Than Me?"

In the public venue at which he took this photo, there is a small bridge used by the residents of the town. And under said bridge, the town raises koi carp.

According to Mr. Takasu, who feeds the carp here six days a week, "lately, the carp seem a little under the weather."

Looking over the boy's post history, this is not his first offense. He has jumped off bridges many times in the past, calling these jumps "daredevil stunts!"

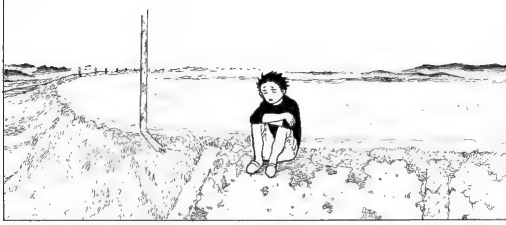
Why does he do it? Bragging rights? War stories? Fun? Bets? Creating material? Whatever his motivation, his acts have now been seen worldwide...



WHAT THE HECK? I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THIS...
ME... POSTING ONLINE?

BLAH BLAH
AND I DEFINITELY DON'T REMEMBER ANYONE TAKING A PICTURE...
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER POSTING ABOUT IT ANYWHERE.
W-WELL, THIS IS ME...

ISHIDA-KUN...
COME TO THE FACULTY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.



Announcement:

Shoya Ishida, Grade 3, Class B

The above-mentioned student has caused a public nuisance unbecoming of a student of this school. Consequently, he has been suspended for one week.

- Your Principal

STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP
TROMP TROMP
WHUMP
CHAPTER 11: THAT FACE
KLUNK
SPLOOSH
*SFX:*SPLASH*
*SFX:*SCRUBBA SCRUBBA*
*SFX:*SCRUB SCRUB*

I BUMPED INTO ISHIDA YESTERDAY, AND...
HE WAS WITH HIS GIRL-FRIEND.

PLOP
SQUIRTLE
NOT TO MENTION, I HEARD HE'S BEEN FOOLING AROUND WITH ALL THE GIRLS IN HIS CLASS.
AHHH, HE'S A TOTAL PLAYBOY.
AND HIS GIRLFRIEND'S EX WAS A REAL PLAYBOY TOO, SO IT'S JUST ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER FOR THAT POOR GIRL...
...
SQUIRT!
SQUIRT!

WAIT A MOMENT, YUZURU.

SHOW THIS TO SHO-CHAN.

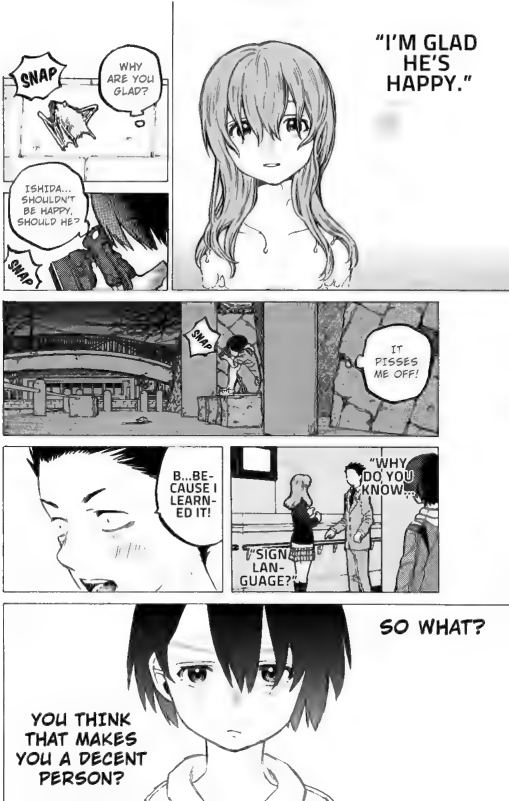
HMM?

-SPFFT-
SAYS HE GOT SUS-PENDED!

AND TELL HER TO STAY AWAY FROM THIS BOY FROM NOW ON.
"Any of You Got More
-Bragging About His Acts
Interested
Blog it Tweet
■Now, when c
rage, they are
Criticism floods his
it might seem like a
ruble adults viewing
"Any of You Got More
In the public venue
bridge used by the
the town raises ko
According to Mr. Take
week, "Lately, the
Looking over the boy'
He has jumped off bri
jumps "daredevil stun
Why does he do it? Br
Creating material) gon
been seen worldwide.
cording to the school this
ale student attends, the inci-
nt is still under investigation.

KREEK
?

TELL HER YOURSELF, MOM.


SNAP
WHY ARE YOU GLAD?
ISHIDA... SHOULDN'T BE HAPPY, SHOULD HE?
SNAP
"I'M GLAD HE'S HAPPY."
SNAP
IT PISSES ME OFF!
B...BE-CAUSE I LEARN-ED IT!
"WHY DO YOU KNOW?"
"SIGN LAN-GUAGE?"
SO WHAT?
YOU THINK THAT MAKES YOU A DECENT PERSON?

HE'S JUST LIKE THE OTHERS.
AND HIM... AND HIM...
AND HER...
AND HER...
AND HER...
HER...AND HER...

MOM'S GONNA GET MAD AT YOU AGAIN BECAUSE OF THOSE JERKS.
THOSE HEARING AIDS ARE LIGHT, SO IT MIGHT HAVE DRIFTED AWAY.

THEN THEY MIGHT LEAVE YOU ALONE...
GET MAD.
...
THAT'S RIGHT, SIS.
WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?
"GETTING MAD IS HARD"?

GETTING MAD IS IMPORTANT.
I HAVEN'T ONCE...
SEEN YOU ANGRY.
WHEN I SEE YOU MAKING THAT FACE, IT MAKES ME UNEASY.
YOU'RE SMILING, BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BE HAPPY, RIGHT?
HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL?

THERE SHE IS!! IT'S DEAFO'S SISTER!
"WHY DON'T YOU LOOK...
"FOR ONE MORE HOUR?"

YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID YESTERDAY!
WHAT?
YEAH, WE WERE JUST PLAYIN' WITH HER, RIGHT, GUYS?
BUT SHE WAS SMILIN' LIKE SHE LIKED IT.
Y-
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO STARTED THROWING ROCKS.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU FINISH YOUR GAME...
WITH ME?!

I WON'T FORGIVE ANYONE...
...WHO HURTS MY SISTER!!
SPLASH
SPLASH
AHA-HA!!
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!!
WHAP
OW!!

SIS...
WHOA! IT'S HER! IT'S DEAFO!!
EW, GROSS!

SHE STOOD IN FRONT OF ME AND WOULDN'T BUDGE.

MAYBE SIS JUST DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO GET ANGRY.

SHE'S SMILING AGAIN.

APPARENTLY, SHE GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH A BOY AT SCHOOL.

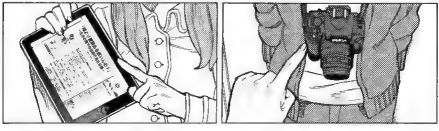
SHE CAME HOME ALL BEAT UP.

ONE DAY A SHORT TIME LATER...

THAT BOY WAS...
SHOYA ISHIDA.
MY SISTER DOESN'T GET MAD...
AND SHE PROBABLY NEVER WILL.
DID SIS GET MAD THAT DAY?
NO...
ACCORDING TO THE RUMORS, SHE WAS SMILING.

THUNK
OH?
YOU STILL AWAKE?
TEP TEP

HMM?



"Any of You Got Mor
-Bragging
ut His Act
Blog
NOW

->PFFT<-
YOU WANNA KNOW IF I TOOK THAT PICTURE?
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP

THAT'S RIGHT.
I DID IT.
BECAUSE I HATE THAT GUY!
GRAB
WHEN IN THE HECK DID YOU LEARN...
HOW TO MAKE THAT FACE?
HUH?

CHAPTER 12: SIS

...
SNAP
SNAP
KLAK KLAK
KLAK KLAK
"ANYBODY OUT THERE GOT MORE GUTS THAN ME?"

...
NOW THAT'S A SHOCK...
MY SISTER, WHO USUALLY SMILES ALL THE TIME, LEARNED TO GET MAD.
BUT HOW?
BECAUSE ISHIDA'S INVOLVED?

THAT KINDA PISSES ME OFF.
GRR!
OH, SHUT UP!
WH-WHAP?!
!
WH-WHAP?!
PHIP!
N-NO, I DON'T WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME!! I'D RATHER GO ALONE!!
WH-WH-WHAP
NO WAY! I'M NOT GONNA APOLO-GIZE!!

WH-WH-WHAP
KEH!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Y...YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PUT IT LIKE THAT...
I MEAN...

EVERY-
THING I
DID WAS...
FOR YOU,
SIS...

UWAAH!!
ZOOM

PHEW
DONE WITH MY APOLOGY LETTER...

I GOTTA WORK LATE TONIGHT, SO CAN YOU PICK HER UP FOR ME AT FIVE?
SHO-YA...

SHO-TAN!
M...
MARIA!
HMM? THE PARK?
PARK! PARK!
MY, WHAT A YOUNG DADDY.
SHE'S AN ANGEL!
SO WE CAN'T STAY LONG, OKAY?
WELL, I'M KINDA SUPPOSED TO BE UNDER HOUSE ARREST...

I FOUND SOMETHIN' WEIRD!
HEY! HEY!
HMM?
WHERE IS IT?
OVER HERE!
OH...

OH...?
O-OH, GOOD...
THIS'S... NISHIMIYA'S BOYFRIEND... ISN'T IT? HE'S A TOTAL MESS...

IT LOOKS LIKE...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SCHOOL AND STUFF...ARE YOU OKAY?

I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING. ARE *YOU* OKAY?
O-OH, I'M SUSPENDED... THAT'S ALL... OH, DID YOU READ THE ARTICLE?

HEY... ARE YOU OKAY?

HUH...SO YOU GOT SUSPENDED EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T POST IT?
WELL, APPARENTLY, JUMPING INTO THE RIVER IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS AGAINST THE RULES.
WAIT... HOW DO YOU KNOW I DIDN'T POST IT?
BECAUSE I DID.
O-
OH, YOU DID?
I'M GLAD IT WAS YOU...
WHY?!
WELL, I AT LEAST HAVE SOME IDEA WHY YOU DID IT...

YOU'RE NOT MAD?
...
I BROUGHT IT ON MY-SELF...
I CAN'T BE MAD.
...
HUH?
IS THAT WHY SHOKO DIDN'T GET MAD?
BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT IT WAS HER FAULT TOO?

KONK
SHO-TAN, I'M HUNGRY!
HEH...SO YOU GOT A KID?
S-SHE'S MY SISTER'S! HER DAD IS BRAZILIAN...
I-I'D BETTER GET GOING...
YOU'D BETTER GO HOME BEFORE YOUR PARENTS GET WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
HEY! SERIOUSLY, ARE YOU OKAY, MAN?!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AWAY FROM HOME?!

I RUN AWAY FROM HOME ALL THE TIME.
MY MOM DOESN'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
...YOU WANNA COME TO MY PLACE FOR DINNER?
NO WAY... LEAVE HE ALONE...
DUDE, YOU CAN BARELY STAND!

WHAT THE?!
WHAT'S WITH THE KID?!
HE'S JUST SOMEONE I KNOW.
...
YOU'RE NOT GONNA EAT?
...
COME ON.
TURN

CHOMP
SAY "AH!"
NOM NOM
I LAID YOU OUT A FUTON.
I BROUGHT YOU A CHANGE OF CLOTHES.

HEY, SHOYA...
HMM?
SHHHHHHH...
I THINK SOMEONE'S AT THE SALON...
I HEAR POUNDING DOWN-STAIRS.
RATTLE RATTLE
WHO COULD THAT BE AT THIS HOUR?
SEE? AT THE DOOR...
SHHHHH

SHOKO...
I-ISN'T HERE, IS SHE?
I-IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
AREN'T YOU... SHOKO-SAN'S MOTHER?!
WHAT'S WRONG?

...SHE DIDN'T COME HOME...
N-NO, SHE'S NOT...
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
IT LOOKS LIKE NISHIMIYA'S MISSING.
ISHIDA?
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' SO LATE?
UHHH...

DON'T TELL ME...IS SHOKO... LOOKING FOR ME?
AT THIS HOUR?
HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN GONE?!
HEY, UH...
ISHI-DA...
...CAN I BORROW SOME SHOES?
SO I CAN.. YOU KNOW...
YEAH.
LET'S GO FIND HER.

SHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
NISHI-MIYA!
NISHI-MIYA!
NISHI-MIYA!
SHHHHH
HHHHH
NI-SHI-MI-YA!
CHAPTER 13: STRUGGLE
YOU IDIOT! THERE'S NO POINT IN YELLING!
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE CAN HEAR YOU!!

SHHH
YOU NEVER KNOW. SHE MIGHT HEAR IT...
IN THIS RAIN?! DON'T HOLD YOUR FRIGGIN' BREATH!!

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S AROUND HERE IN ANY CASE!
LET'S TRY SHI-MON PARK NEXT!
CRAP... WHY DID I CANCEL MY CONTRACT?!
I DON'T HAVE A CELL PHONE.
OH, I KNOW! WHY DON'T YOU TEXT HER?!
HOW ARE YOU PICKING WHERE TO LOOK?!
THEY'RE THE PLACES I HANG OUT!!

I THINK SHOKO GOT WORRIED...
...AND WENT OUT LOOKING FOR ME...

NISHI-
MIYA!
HUH...
NISHI-
MIYA!
NISHI-
MIYA!!
HHH!

KEEP IT DOWN OUT THERE!! SOME OF US ARE TRYING TO SLEEP!!
THUNK

WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME, ISHIDA? YOU'VE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH.

...

NO WAY.

WHY NOT?

"I GAVE UP ONCE BEFORE, BUT..."
THE OTHER DAY, SHE SAID...
SHE "GAVE UP ONCE BEFORE."
BETTER THAN ANYONE.
YEAH, I KNOW.
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO NISHIMIYA WHEN SHE WAS A KID, RIGHT?
...AND WHAT A JERK I WAS TO HER?
BUT THAT IS WHAT SHE SAID.
SH-SHE DIDN'T SAY EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS SHE GAVE UP ON...
I KNOW.
I KNOW.
SO...
SHE GAVE UP ON SOMETHING BECAUSE OF ME...

WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT?! OBLIGATION?! A SENSE OF DUTY?!
SO YOUR GUILT IS WHAT'S KEEPING YOU GOING THEN?!
YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT!!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
AS LONG AS I HAVE A BODY, I WANT TO DEDICATE MY LIFE...
...TO HER!!
YOU MAY THINK IT'S STUPID, BUT...
WHEN I SAW NISHIMIYA AGAIN, ALL THAT STUFF HIT ME LIKE A TON OF BRICKS!! THAT'S WHAT KEPT ME FROM RUNNING AWAY FROM LIFE!!

DON'T TELL ME...
...ARE YOU SERIOUS?
...
ABOUT WHAT?
...

LET'S CHECK THE NEXT ONE.

SHUT UP!!
THUNK

...
NISHI-MIYA!!

HUFF
THIS IS PRETTY MUCH THE LAST PLACE I CAN THINK OF...

NISHI-MIYA!! ARE YOU THERE?!

SHO-
KO!!
...
SHO-
KO!!
NISHI-
MIYA!
SHO-
KO!
SHO-
KO!!
HMM? DID YOU JUST HEAR SOME-THING?
BONG

SEE! OVER THERE!
BONG
HUH? SHOKO?

!!
BONG
NISHI-MIYA!!

YUJU-
YUJU-WU?!
FU...
IT'S SHO-KO!!
BONG BONG
BONG BONG BONG
SHOKO! IT'S ME, SHOKO!!
DUDE, GO!
YEAH!

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO COME HOME BEFORE YOUR PHONE DIED?
HONESTLY. I CAN'T BE-LIEVE YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...

YUZURU, COME IN-TERPRET FOR ME.
...

HELLO, MOM?
WE FOUND NISHIMIYA. YEAH, SHE'S TALKING TO HER BOY-FRIEND.

"SEE YOU LATER."

"SHOKO'LL GET MAD IF I DON'T APOLOGIZE TO YOU."

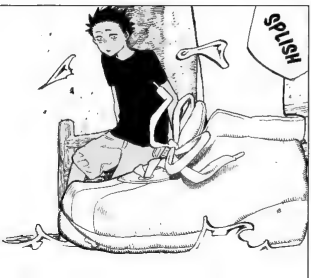
"YOU SURE? I CAN COME SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN?"

..."LATER"?

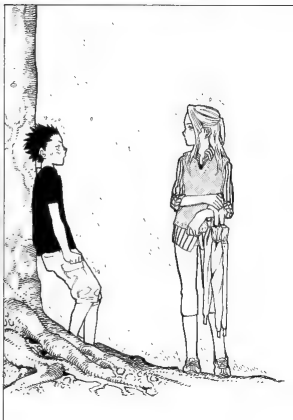
YOU LEARNED THAT?

SIGN LANGUAGE, I MEAN.

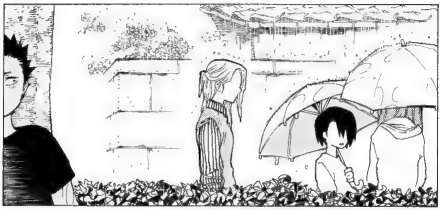
OH... YEAH.
SHE SAW ME SIGN-ING...


SPLISH

IT'S STARTING TO RAIN AGAIN, SO I GUESS I SHOULD GET HOME TOO.
WELP...
SPLISH



IT'S STARTING TO RAIN AGAIN, HUH?
ザァァア
SHHHHH
ACHOO!!
LET'S GO HOME. HERE, USE THESE UMBRELLAS.
I DON'T NEED ONE. YOU ONLY BROUGHT TWO ANYWAY, RIGHT?
JUST TAKE IT.
KEH!
SHOVE



NOW LISTEN...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU STRUG-GLE...
IT WON'T BRING BACK SHOKO'S RUINED CHILD-HOOD!!

YES, MA'AM!

LET'S GO HOME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
?

CHAPTER 14: YUZURU NISHIMIYA

OH, IS THAT A FRIEND OF YOURS, SHO-CHAN?
BWAHH!
THERE ISN'T A PERSON ALIVE WHO HASN'T DONE SOMETHING WRONG! WELL, EXCEPT ME OF COURSE! HEH!
DON'T LOOK SO GLUM! LIFE HAS ITS UPS AND DOWNS!

OH MY, HOW POLITE.
I CAME THINKING THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING I COULD ASSIST WITH.
OH, HELLO, MADAM. I AM SHOYA-KUN'S BEST FRIEND. MY NAME IS TOMO-HIRO NAGA-TSUKA.

THUNK THUNK
THUNK THUNK

I DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE, MADAM, BUT GENERALLY, ONE WANTS TO REMOVE THE KELP BEFORE THE WATER BOILS.
WOW, YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR STUFF.
OH, AND IT'S BETTER TO CUT THE TOFU INTO LARGER PIECES. I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT FOR YOU.
PLEASE READY THE PONZU SAUCE.*
AND THE GREEN ONIONS AS WELL.
NAGATSUKA-KUN SURE TOOK TO THIS PLACE QUICK.
*A THIN, CITRUS-BASED SAUCE
WOULD YOU RUN OUT AND PICK SOME GREEN ONIONS, SHO-CHAN?
THUNK
SNAP
...
YARGH!! ISHIDA-KUN!! LOOK!! LOOK!!

LOOK WHAT I SPOTTED PROWLING AROUND!! AND I CAUGHT HIM! JUST LOOK!!
...I CAME TO PICK UP THE CLOTHES AND CAMERA I LEFT WHEN I STAYED OVER.
FRIEND? WELL, HE'S HER BOY-FRIEND...
NISHI-MIYA'S, I MEAN.
-:GASP:-
"STAYED OVER"?! HE'S YOUR FRIEND?! MORE THAN ME?!
OH, SORRY. I DIDN'T NOTICE.

AHA! I KNEW IT! HERE'S THAT PHOTO!
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP WHEN I SAW THAT ARTICLE!!
I KNEW SHOYA DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS BESIDES ME!!
GIMME THAT!!
WHUMP
...
SOMEONE HAD TO TAKE IT, RIGHT?!
WHICH MEANS HE TOOK AND UPLOADED IT!!
YOU'RE THE CUL-PRIT!!
I AL-READY CON-FESSED.
GOT THOSE ONIONS YET?
I SOLVED THE CASE, MADAM!!

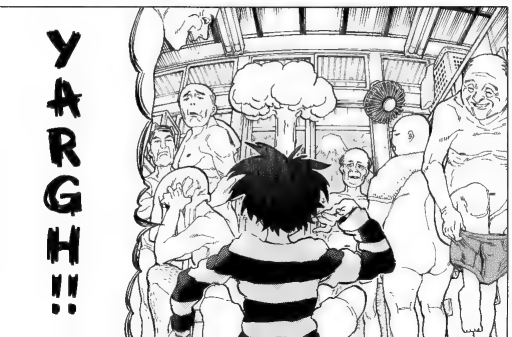
I'M VERY SORRY FOR WHAT I'VE DONE.
COME ON! APOLO-GIZE!
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT. COME ON, LET'S ALL EAT!
OH...IT'S OKAY. IT WAS KIND OF MY FAULT TOO.
SMACK
YOU'VE BEEN FORGIVEN! BE GRATEFUL AND EAT!!
WAIT, SHOULDN'T YOU CALL HOME?
ARE YOU SURE YOUR PARENTS WON'T BE WORRIED?

OH, MOM?
RIGHT NOW, I'M AT ISHIDA-SAN'S PLACE. THEY'RE FEEDING ME, SO I'LL BE HOME LATE.
OH, AND THAT ARTICLE? THAT WAS ALL A PRANK I PULLED...
IT'S GOT A BUILT-IN GPS. SHOKO GAVE IT TO ME.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
OHHH, SHE'S GOT YOU ON A SURPRISINGLY SHORT LEASH, HUH?
I-I KNOW THAT!!
!! !! !?
HEY, BOY! THIS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST LAUGH OFF!!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND ME ARE GONNA HAVE TO HAVE A FRANK DISCUSSION!!
-PFFT-
SHE'S FREAKIN' OUT!
WHAT AN IDIOT! SHE JUST FIGURED IT OUT!
BEEP

水門の里

ズガガガ
NO... DON'T TELL ME...IS THIS...
?!
THAT'S RIGHT... IT IS THE BATTLE-FIELD KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC BATH...
AN ARENA IN WHICH WE PUT OUR MANLY ARMAMENTS ON DISPLAY...
WHAT? WAITTA MINUTE!
SHK SHK
WHAT ARE YOU, A CAT?!
I HATE BATHS!!

I WISH US TO BARE EVERYTHING BEFORE ONE ANOTHER!!
TOSS


YARGH!!

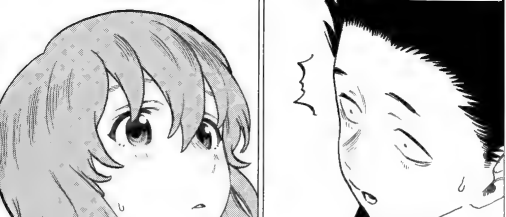
ARRGH!!
YARGH!!
DUDE, SETTLE DOWN.
H-HEY!
DAMN IT!
DAMN IT!
DAMN IT!
YARGH!!

PHEW
OH...

WHAT'S UP, SHOKO?
...DID I FORGET SOME-THING?

HEY!
OH...THE CLOTHES I BORROWED AT ISHI-DA'S...
I'VE GOTTA GIVE THESE BACK...

...
WHAT GOT IN-TO YOU, MAN?!
YOU FORGOT YOUR BAG!
...!

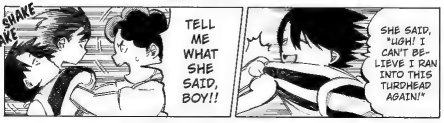


OH...
HI... NISHI-MIYA... SAN...

OH NO! THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE! YOU DIDN'T DO ANY--

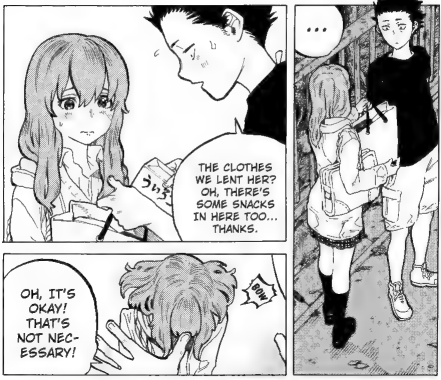
HUH?
NOD
IT'S TRUE.
I'M YUZURU NISHI-MIYA.

Y...
YIKES!
HUH? WHAT IS IT?! TELL ME WHAT SHE SAID!


SHE SAID, "UGH! I CAN'T BELIEVE I RAN INTO THIS TURDHEAD AGAIN!"
TELL ME WHAT SHE SAID, BOY!!
SHAKE
SHAKE

NAGA-TSUKA-KUN...
THAT'S NOT A "BOY"...
THAT'S NISHIMIYA'S LITTLE SISTER...

HEH!
...
HUH?
SO THAT YOU MIGHT STAND ON YOUR OWN TWO FEET.
NO, I WAS WELL AWARE OF THAT FACT. I SIMPLY STAYED QUIET.
YOU LIAR!
SO? I KNEW THAT.
I BET SHE'S BEEN WATCHING NISHIMIYA FOR YEARS.
NO WAY.
BY THE WAY, THAT'S A NICE CAMERA.
MIGHT I SEE IT?
IF THAT'S SO, THEN SHE'S PROBABLY A GOOD KID...
AND SHE PROBABLY ACTS LIKE A GUY FOR NISHIMIYA'S SAKE, HUH?


THE CLOTHES WE LENT HER? OH, THERE'S SOME SNACKS IN HERE TOO... THANKS.
...
OH, IT'S OKAY! THAT'S NOT NEC-ESSARY!
BYE!
"LATER."
SEE YA!
...

!

HUH, I'VE NEVER SEEN NISHIMIYA...
SMILE LIKE THAT...

WHAT AM I SMILING ABOUT?!
I DON'T GET TO SMILE!!
OH... IT'S NOTHING...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ISHIDA-KUN?
I HATE MYSELF.
NO, IT CAN'T BE!
IS IT ENOUGH FOR ME TO BE FORGIVEN FOR MY PAST MISTAKES...
AND GET AN OUTCOME CONVENIENT FOR ME?

I MUSTN'T FORGET.
THE TIMES SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SMILING...
THE BAD MEMO-RIES...
BUT IF I SEE THAT SMILE...

THIS SMILE OF SHOKO'S...
MAKE ME FORGET?
SOMEDAY, WON'T I FORGET?
...WON'T SEEING...
AND ALL THE BAD MEMO-RIES?
THE TIME IT TOOK TO GET BACK THAT SMILE...
HMM? WHAT IS IT?
GASP!

ISHIDA SAID HE DOESN'T WEAR 'EM ANY-MORE!
AND IF YOU GIVE 'EM BACK NOW, I'LL BE BAREFOOT!
WHAT A MORON.
SHOKO!

SHOYA ISHI-DA...
I HATE THIS GUY.
HUH?
AND THAT'S PROBABLY NOT GONNA CHANGE IN THE FUTURE.
SHO-CHAN!!
BUT I GUESS...
IT'LL BE A DIFFERENT KIND OF HATRED FROM NOW ON.

[CONTINUED IN VOL. 3]